

VIRGINIA PINE

Pinus virginiana Mill.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Jersey pine, Scrub pine, Spruce pine, Virginia scrub pine.

FORM: Usually 30-40 feet high, rarely more than 18 inches in diameter, sometimes 100 feet tall with diameter 2 1/2 to 3 feet, the branches are long, horizontal and tend to droop, small branches slender and limber, the crown is often shaped like a flattened cone.

BARK: 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick, broken by shallow grooves into plate-like scales tinged with red.

TWIGS: At first pale green or green tinged with purple, covered with a glaucous bloom, becoming purple and later light gray-brown.

LEAVES: Clustered in twos, 1 1/2 to 3 inches long, somewhat stiff, grayish-green, shed the third or fourth year.

FLOWERS: Male in crowded clusters, orange-brown; female on opposite spreading peduncles near the middle of the shoots of the year, generally a little below and alternate with 1 or 2 lateral branchlets, pale green, about 1/3 of an inch long, the scale tips tinged with rose color.

FRUIT: Cones 2 to 3 inches long, quite red when mature, sessile, conical when closed, ovoid when open, may persist 3 to 4 years; cone scales thin, nearly flat, terminated with a prickle; seeds 1/3 inch long, pale brown.

WINTER BUDS: Ovate, sharp-pointed, 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, covered with overlapping sharp-pointed brown scales.

WOOD: Slightly resinous, light, soft, brittle, pale orange, with light sapwood.

USES: Railroad ties, lumber, fuel, pulp. Historical uses: mine props.

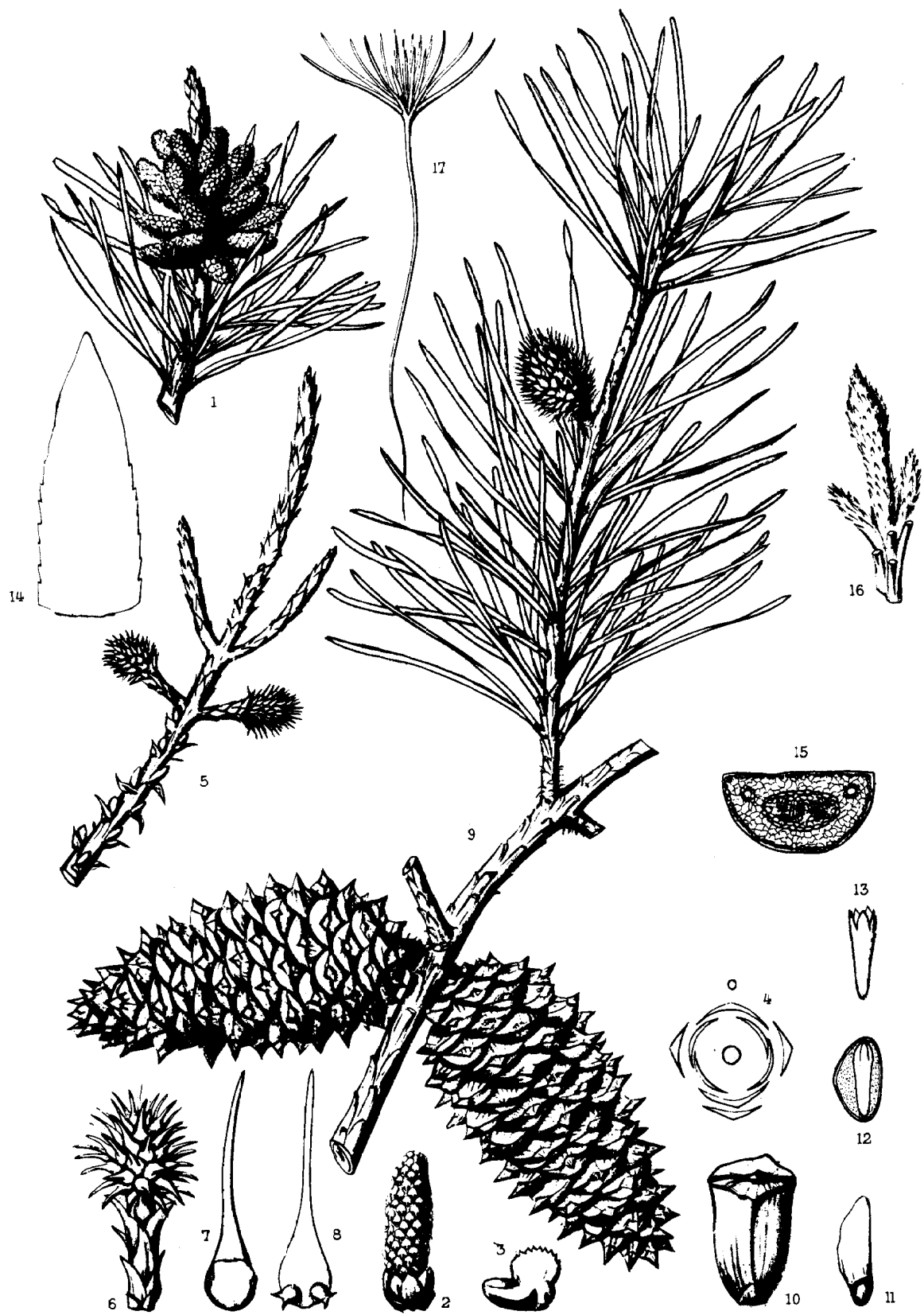
HABITAT: Light sandy soil and rocky mountain slopes and ridges; very prolific.

DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERISTICS: Tree often has ragged appearance; short twisted spreading leaves; youngest branches are purple, often curved; long horizontal or pendulous branches.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Northern part of the state and as far south as Chilton County.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch with staminate flowers | 8. A scale of a pistillate flower, upper side, with its ovules |
| 2. A staminate flower | 9. A fruiting branch |
| 3. An anther | 10. A cone scale, lower side, with its bract |
| 4. Diagram of the involucre of the staminate flower | 11. A seed |
| 5. An end of a branch with pistillate flower, lower side, with its bract | 12. Vertical section of a seed |
| 6. A pistillate flower | 13. An embryo |
| 7. A scale of a pistillate flower, lower side, with its bract | 14. Tip of a leaf |
| | 15. Cross section of a leaf |
| | 16. Expanding branch buds |
| | 17. A seedling plant |



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